



Temple Beth Israel hosts a successful fundraising bingo at the Aruba Beach Club

It has been a very busy holiday season for the congregation of Temple Beth Israel, with a number of festive events marking the month of December. The synagogue hosted beach bonfire to celebrate Hanukkah, “The Festival of Lights” and has conducted a number of Bat Mitzvahs.

On Sunday, December 24, the temple hosted a fundraising bingo in the courtyard of the Aruba Beach Club, that filled the patio with islanders and island visitors alike. A number of local vendors and restaurants donated terrific prizes, and Rabbi Marcelo Bater reports that they did “exceptionally well.”

Dr. Richard Resen, a temple member acted as the bingo caller during the several games that won participants dinners at various restaurants such as Matilde, Texas de Brazil and Le Petit Café. SETAR, Aruba’s national telecommunication company donated cellular phones as prizes, Dufry provided lovely gift baskets of their fine quality products. Gandleman Jewelers, including the grand prize, an eighteen-carat gold Cartier pen, donated a number of valuable items. Janet McDowell of Columbus, Ohio, who was all smiles over her beautiful designer prize, won the pen.

The end of year events for the Temple Beth Israel congregation continue with the final Shabbat service for 2006 this Friday evening, beginning at 7:00 PM instead of at 8:00, which is the usual time. The reason for this is that every last Friday of the month temple members prepare various dishes and share a Shabbat dinner together as a community when services are done. Island visitors are welcome to join, and bring a favorite dish.

Additionally, this Saturday Becky Gottfried, granddaughter of Isio Gottfried will be a Bat Mitzvah during the Shacharit Service on Saturday that starts at 9:30 AM. Again, the members of the Jewish community and island visitors are invited to join in this joyous occasion.